

Cook Inlet Area Subsistence Fishing

The Cook Inlet Area includes all waters of Alaska enclosed by a line extending east from Cape Douglas (58°51'10"N. Lat.) and a line extending south from Cape Fairfield (148°50'25"W. Long.). These regulations apply on waters within or adjacent to the Denali National Park and Preserve, Lake Clark National Park, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, and Chugach National Forest, and exclude marine waters. General domain lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management are open to fishing only on non-navigable waters.

Kenai Peninsula District: The Kenai Peninsula District consists of all freshwater drainages of the Kenai Peninsula west of a line from Cape Puget (59° 56.58' N. lat., 148° 26.50' W. long.) to the west bank of the mouth of Ingram Creek, excluding Ingram Creek. [See map 11 on previous page.]

Species / Customary and Traditional Use Determinations	Harvest Limits	Open Season
All Fish — Federal subsistence fishing permit required for salmon, trout, and Dolly Varden/char.		
Kenai Peninsula District, waters north of and including the Kenai River drainage within the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge and the Chugach National Forest <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Residents of the communities of Hope and Cooper Landing</i>	Seasons, harvest and possession limits, and methods and means are the same as for the taking of those species under Alaska sport fishing regulations (5 AAC 56 and 5 AAC 57) in effect at the time you are fishing, unless otherwise modified in this section.	
Waters within the Kasilof River drainage within the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Residents of the community of Ninilchik</i>		
Salmon—Federal subsistence fishing permit required.		
Kenai Peninsula District, waters north of and including the Kenai River drainage within the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge and the Chugach National Forest. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Residents of the community of Ninilchik</i>	Seasons, harvest and possession limits, and methods and means are the same as for the taking of those species under Alaska sport fishing regulations (5 AAC 56 and 5 AAC 57) in effect at the time you are fishing, unless otherwise modified in this section.	
Waters within Lake Clark National Park draining into and including that portion of Tuxedni Bay within the Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Residents of the Tuxedni Bay area</i>		
Smelt—No permit required.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Residents of the Cook Inlet Area</i>	No limit	April 1–June 15 taken with dip nets in freshwater.
Fish Other Than salmon, trout, Dolly Varden/char, smelt, grayling, and burbot.		
Remainder of the Cook Inlet Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Residents of the Cook Inlet Area</i>	No limit	Year round

Special Provisions

- ♦ Fishing gear for the taking of salmon, trout, Dolly Varden/char is specified on the Federal subsistence fishing permit.
- ♦ Gillnets may not be used in freshwater, except for taking whitefish in the Tyone River drainage and as otherwise provided for in the Cook Inlet Area..
- ♦ No Federal open season for grayling and burbot.

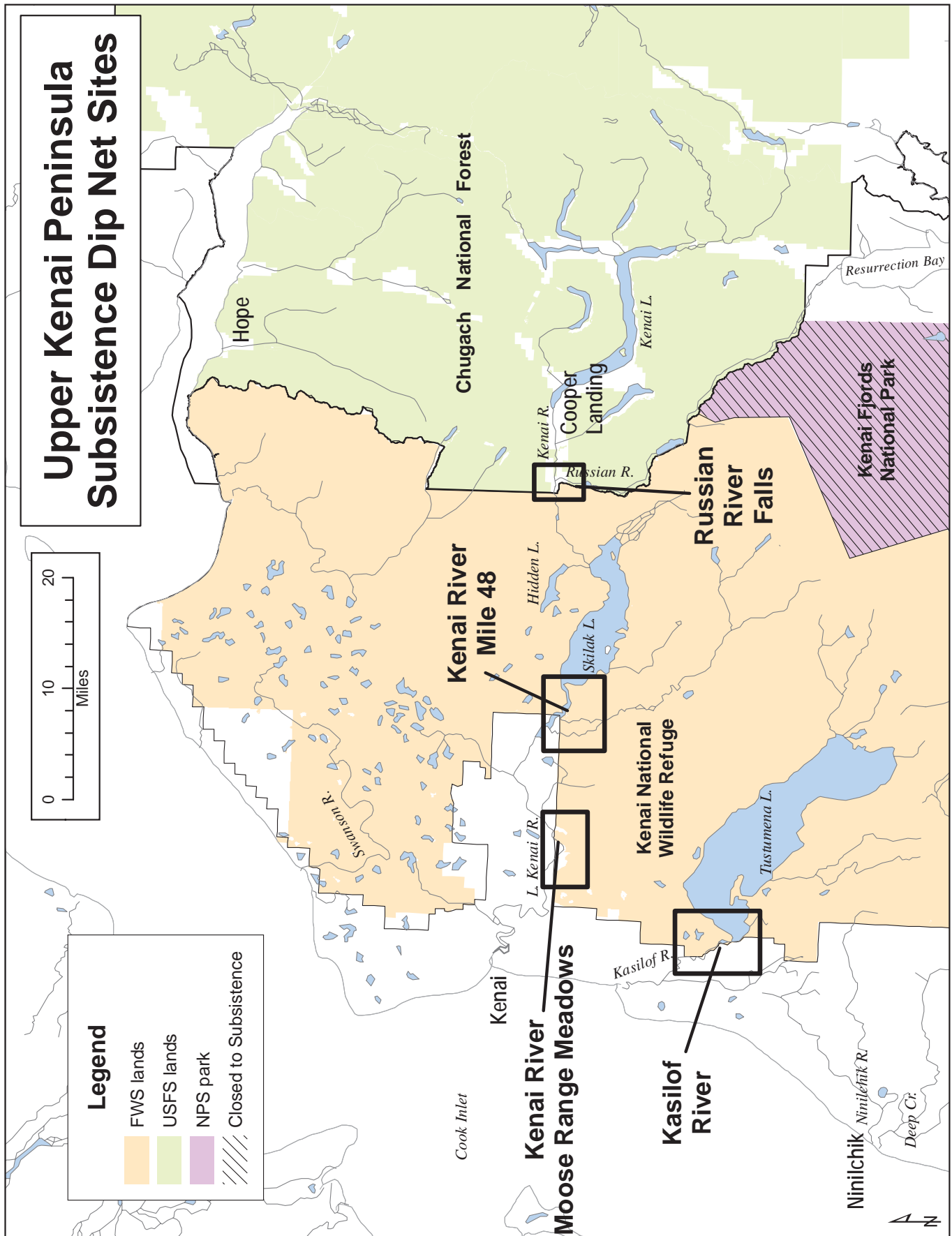


FEDERAL DELEGATED OFFICIAL

Cook Inlet Area
Project Leader

Kenai Fish and Wildlife Field Office

See Directory at the back of this book for contact information.



Kenai Peninsula—Special Provisions

- ◆ All persons must have a valid Federal subsistence fishing permit in their possession while taking, attempting to take, or transporting subsistence-caught salmon, trout, and Dolly Varden/char. You may apply for your permit(s) by calling the Kenai Fish and Wildlife Field Office at 1-800-822-6550.
- ◆ Before transporting fish from the fishing site, all retained fish must be recorded on the permit and marked by removing the dorsal fin (See Fin Identification, page 20).
- ◆ You may not accumulate seasonal harvest limits for species specified on a Federal subsistence fishing permit with a State seasonal harvest limit for the same species.
- ◆ All fish harvested as part of the household limit in the dip net fishery in the Kenai River and the dip net and/or fish wheel fishery in the Kasilof River must be reported to the in-season manager within 72 hours of leaving the fishing location.

Kenai River Salmon—Dip Net

- ◆ Only residents of Hope, Cooper Landing and Ninilchik may harvest salmon from the Kenai River under Federal subsistence regulations.
- ◆ Only residents of Hope and Cooper Landing may retain resident species including lake trout, rainbow trout, and Dolly Varden/Arctic char harvested incidentally from the Kenai River while salmon fishing under Federal subsistence regulations. Rainbow trout and Dolly Varden 18 inches or longer taken in the Kenai River dip net fishery must be released.
- ◆ Fishing for sockeye, Chinook, coho, or pink salmon will close by Special Action prior to regulatory end dates if the annual total harvest limit for that species is reached or for other reasons as required.
- ◆ Salmon taken in the Kenai River dip net fishery by Ninilchik households will be included as part of those households' annual limits for the Kasilof River.
- ◆ All salmon, rainbow trout, and Dolly Varden retained by residents of Hope and Cooper Landing and all salmon retained by residents of Ninilchik as part of the household limit in the dip net fishery in the Kenai River must be reported within 72 hours to the Federal fisheries manager upon leaving the fishing location, and permits must be returned to the manager at the end of the season. Call (907) 262-9863 or (800) 822-6550 to report your harvest.
- ◆ Failure to respond to reporting requirements or return the completed harvest permit by December 15 may result in issuance of a violation notice and/or make you ineligible to receive a subsistence permit during the following regulatory year.

Location: Russian River Falls, Kenai River mile 48, and Moose Range Meadows (only from a boat). For the Russian River fishing site, only sockeye salmon may be harvested.

Note: Rod and reel may also be used to harvest fish under household possession limits in the three dip netting locations.

Species	Season	Household Limit/ Each Additional Household Member	Annual Total Harvest Limit
Late-run Chinook ¹	July 16–September 30	10/2	1,000
Sockeye	June 15–August 15	25/5	4,000
Coho ¹	July 16–September 30	20/5	3,000
Pink ¹	July 16–September 30	15/5	2,000
Other species	Mandatory release of rainbow/steelhead trout and Dolly Varden/Arctic char 18 inches or longer.		

¹ For the Russian River fishing site, only sockeye salmon may be retained.

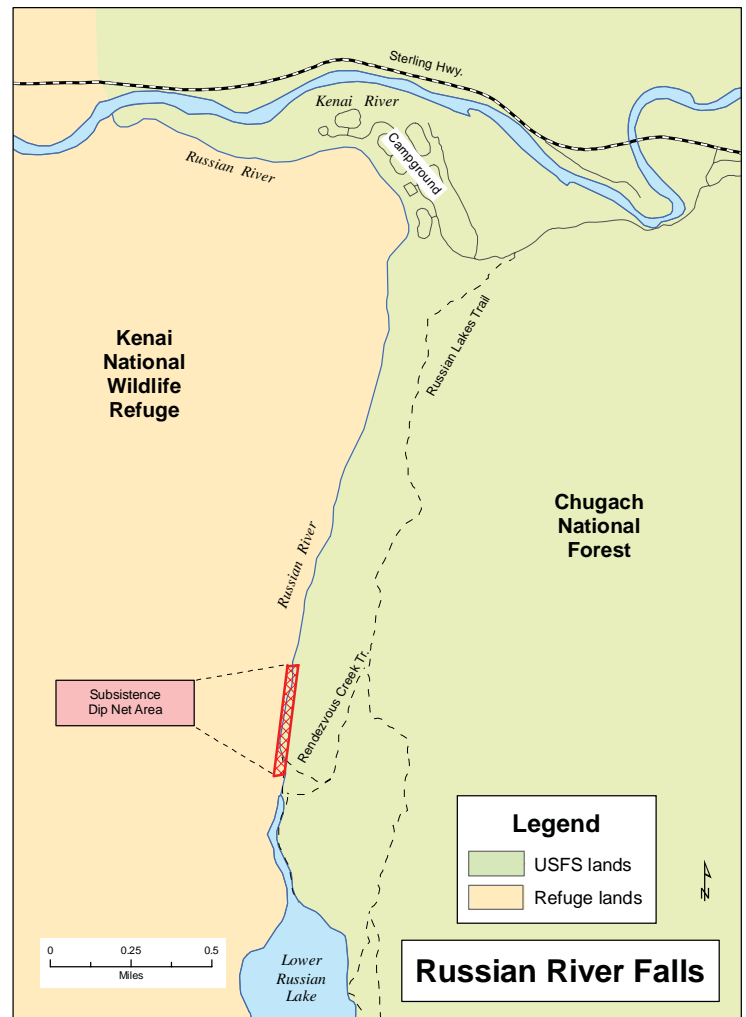
Dip Netting Locations

Russian River Falls

Dip netting will be allowed from a Federal regulatory marker near the upstream end of the fish ladder at Russian River Falls, downstream to a Federal regulatory marker approximately 600 yards below Russian River Falls.

Additional Provisions for the Russian River

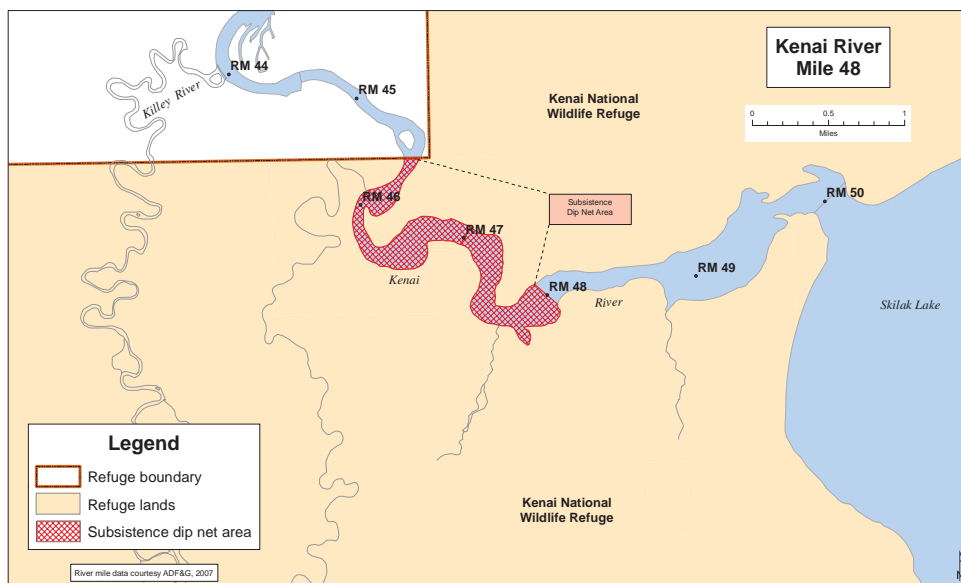
- ◆ Only sockeye salmon may be harvested.
- ◆ Season dates are: June 15–August 15
- ◆ To prevent the conditioning of bears to human food sources:
Food, beverages, and odoriferous refuse must be in possession or within immediate grasp (within 3 feet) at all times.
All fish carcasses should be cut into at least three pieces and thrown into the fast-moving water of the river.
- ◆ Use of the Russian River Falls viewing platforms is prohibited for dip net fishery activities, such as fishing, transporting fish, and cleaning fish.
- ◆ Any additions or changes to regulations for the Russian River Area will be posted on the kiosk at the Russian River Falls trailhead.
- ◆ Residents using rod and reel gear at this fishery site may not fish with bait at any time.

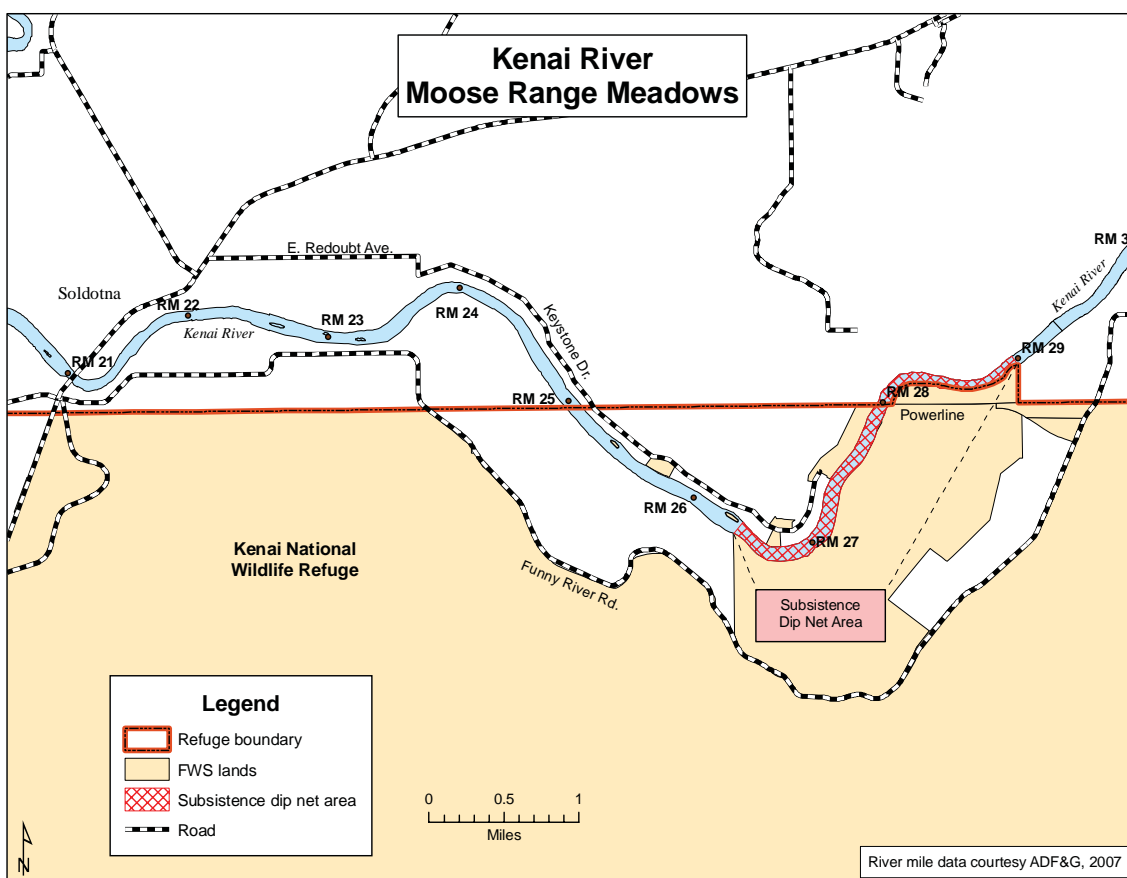


Kenai River Mile 48

Dip netting will be allowed, while either standing in the river or from a boat, from Federal regulatory markers on both banks of the Kenai River at about River Mile 48 (approximately 2 miles below the outlet of Skilak Lake) downstream approximately 2.5 miles to a marker on the Kenai River at about River Mile 45.5. Eligible residents may also use a rod and reel at this fishing site with up to 2 baited single or treble hooks from June 15 through August 31.

Season dates are: June 15–August 15 for sockeye salmon. Late run Chinook, pink, and coho salmon dates are: July 16–September 30.





Kenai River Moose Range Meadows

Dip netting will be allowed only from a boat, from a Federal regulatory marker on the bank of the Kenai River at about River Mile 29, downstream approximately 2.5 miles to a marker at about River Mile 26.5. Eligible residents may also use a rod and reel at this fishing site with up to 2 baited single or treble hooks from June 15 through August 31. Season dates are: June 15 - August 15 for sockeye salmon. Late run Chinook, coho, and pink salmon July 16 - September 30.

Kenai River Salmon—Rod and Reel

Location: All open Federal public waters in the Kenai River drainage

Seasons, areas (including seasonal river bank closures), harvest and possession limits, and method and means (including motorboat restrictions) for take are the same as for the taking of salmon under Alaska sport fishing regulations (5 AAC 56 and 5 AAC 57), except as noted below or as superseded by Federal Special Action. In addition, fishing will be allowed with up to 2 baited single or treble hooks in the Kenai River below Skilak Lake from June 15–August 31.

Species	Daily/ Possession Limit	Comments
Early-run Chinook	2/2	May be retained if less than 44 inches or 55 inches or longer. The total Chinook salmon annual limit is 4, which may be a combination of late- and early-run Chinook salmon.
Late-run Chinook	2/2	20 inches or longer. The total Chinook salmon annual limit is 4, which may be a combination of late- and early-run Chinook salmon.

Kenai River Salmon—Rod and Reel (Continued)

Species	Daily/ Possession Limit	Comments
Sockeye	6/6	
Coho	Kenai River: 4/4 Russian River: 2/2	Combined daily bag limit of sockeye, coho, and pink salmon, 16 inches and longer, is six. No more than 4 may be coho if taken in the Kenai River, and no more than 2 may be coho if taken in the Russian River.
Pink	6/6	

Kenai River Resident Species—Rod and Reel

- ◆ Only residents of Hope and Cooper Landing may harvest resident species from the Kenai River under Federal subsistence fishing regulations.
- ◆ There is an annual limit of 2 rainbow/steelhead trout 20 inches or longer, taken from Kenai Peninsula waters.
- ◆ Failure to respond to reporting requirements or return the completed harvest permit by April 15 may result in issuance of a violation notice and/or make you ineligible to receive a subsistence permit during the following regulatory year.

Location: All open Federal public waters in the Kenai River Drainage

Seasons, areas, harvest and possession limits, and method and means for take are the same as for the taking of these species under Alaska sport fishing regulations (5 AAC 56 and 5 AAC 57), except as noted below or as superseded by Federal Special Action.

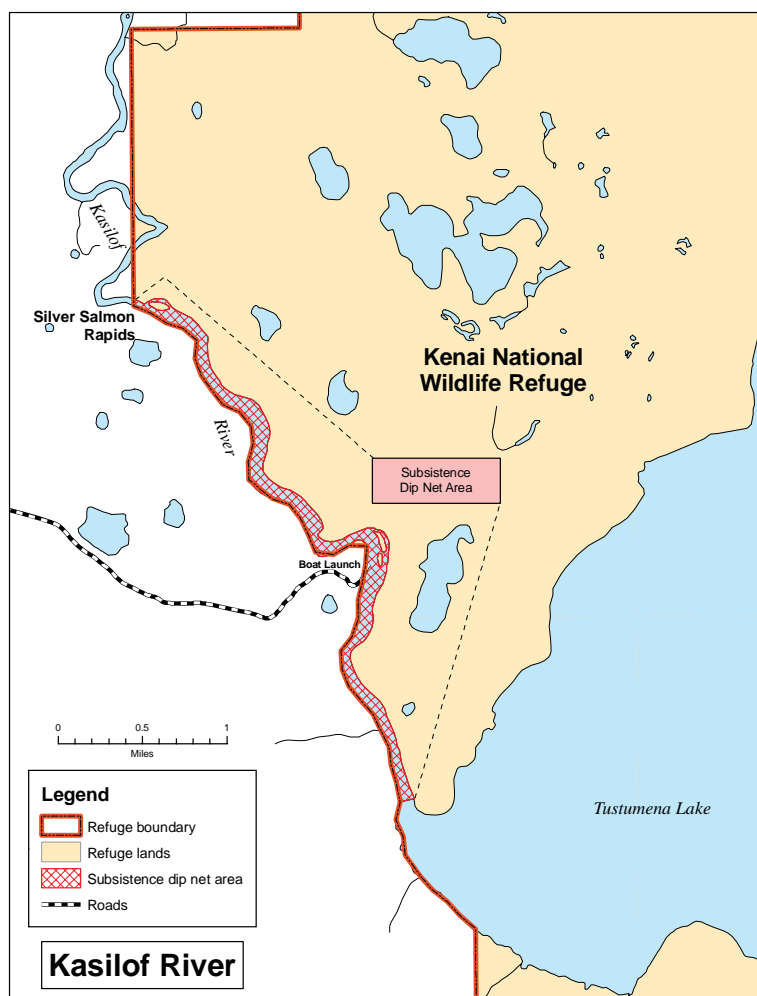
Species	Daily/ Possession Limit	Comments
Dolly Varden/ Arctic char	Flowing waters: 1/1	Below Skilak Lake outlet at RM 50: Must be less than 18 inches. Above Skilak Lake outlet at RM 50: Must be less than 16 inches.
	Lakes and ponds: 2/2	Only 1 of which may be 20 inches or longer.
Lake trout	4/4	20 inches or longer.
	15/15	Less than 20 inches.
	Hidden Lake: 4/4	Regardless of size.
Rainbow/steelhead trout	Flowing waters: 1/1	Below Skilak Lake outlet at RM 50: Must be less than 18 inches. Above Skilak Lake outlet at RM 50: Must be less than 16 inches.
	Lakes and ponds: 2/2	Only 1 of which may be 20 inches or longer.

Kasilof River Salmon—Dip Net/Fish Wheel

- ◆ Only residents of Ninilchik may harvest salmon from the Kasilof River under Federal subsistence fishing regulations.
- ◆ One fish wheel will be allowed in the upper mainstem of the Kasilof River. This is a temporary three year fish wheel fishery for residents of Ninilchik. An operating plan must be submitted by an organization regarding who is responsible for the construction, installation, operation, use, and removal of the fish wheel. The plan must be approved by the in-season fishery manager, in consultation with the Kenai NWR manager, and must also include how fishing time and fish will be offered and distributed among households and residents of Ninilchik. For more information on submitting a plan for fish wheel use contact the Federal in-season manager, at 907-262-9863 or toll-free at 800-822-6550.
- ◆ Fishing for sockeye, Chinook, coho, or pink salmon will close by Special Action prior to regulatory end dates if the annual total harvest limit for that species is reached or superseded by other Federal Special Action.
- ◆ Salmon taken in the Kasilof River dip net or fish wheel fisheries will be included as part of each household's annual limit for the Kenai River.
- ◆ After 200 rainbow/steelhead trout have been taken in the dip net fishery, or after August 15, all rainbow/steelhead trout must be released unless otherwise provided. Rainbow/steelhead trout cannot be kept in the fish wheel fishery.
- ◆ All fish harvested as part of the household limit in the dip net or fish wheel fisheries in the Kasilof River must be reported to the in-season manager within 72 hours of leaving the fishing location. Call (907) 262-9863 or (800) 822-6550 to report your harvest.
- ◆ Failure to respond to reporting requirements or return this completed harvest permit by November 15 may result in issuance of a

Kasilof River Dip Netting Location

Dip netting will be allowed in the Kasilof River from a Federal regulatory marker on the river below the outlet of Tustumena Lake downstream to a marker on the river at Silver Salmon Rapids.



Kasilof River Salmon—Dip Net/Fish Wheel

Location: Kasilof River from the outlet of Tustumena Lake to Silver Salmon Rapids

Note: Rod and reel with up to 2 baited single or treble hooks may also be used to harvest fish under household limits in dip netting locations.

Species	Season	Household Limit/ Each Additional Household Member	Annual Total Harvest Limit
Chinook	6/16–8/15	10/2	500
Sockeye	6/16–8/15	25/5	4,000
Coho	6/16–10/31	10/2	500
Pink	6/16–10/31	10/2	500
Other species ¹	Incidental harvest allowed. All rainbow/steelhead trout taken after August 15, or after 200 rainbow/steelhead trout have been taken in these fisheries, must be released unless otherwise provided.		

¹ All rainbow/steelhead trout caught in a fish wheel must be released.

Kasilof River Salmon—Rod and Reel

Location: Tustumena Lake and tributaries only

Seasons, areas (including seasonal river bank closures), harvest and possession limits, and method and means (including motorboat restrictions) for take are the same as for the taking of salmon under Alaska sport fishing regulations (5 AAC 56), except as noted below. In addition, rod and reel with up to 2 baited single or treble hooks may also be used.

Species	Daily/Possession Limit	Comments
Coho	4/4	16 inches or longer
Pink	6/6	16 inches or longer

Kasilof River Resident Species—Rod and Reel

- ◆ Only residents of Ninilchik may harvest resident species from the Kasilof River under Federal subsistence fishing regulations.
- ◆ There is an annual limit of 2 rainbow/steelhead trout 20 inches or longer, taken from Kenai Peninsula waters.
- ◆ Failure to respond to reporting requirements or return the completed harvest permit by April 15 may result in issuance of a violation notice and/or make you ineligible to receive a subsistence permit during the following regulatory year.

Location: All Federal public waters within the Kasilof River drainage

Seasons, areas (including seasonal river bank closures), harvest and possession limits, and method and means (including motorboat restrictions) for take are the same as for the taking of these fish under Alaska sport fishing regulations (5 AAC 56), except as noted below.

Species	Daily/Possession Limit	Comments
Dolly Varden	Flowing waters: 4/4 Lakes: 10/10	No size limit.

Cook Inlet Area Subsistence Fishing

Species	Daily/Possession Limit	Comments
Lake trout	4/4 15/15	20 inches or longer Less than 20 inches
Rainbow trout	Flowing waters: 2/2 Lakes: 5/5	Less than 20 inches Less than 20 inches

Tustumena Lake (under the ice fishery)

- ◆ Only residents of Ninilchik may harvest fish through the ice from Tustumena Lake under Federal subsistence fishing regulations.
- ◆ You may take fish in Tustumena Lake with a gillnet no longer than 10 fathoms fished under the ice, or with jigging gear used through the ice, under authority of a Federal subsistence fishing permit. The total annual harvest quota for this fishery is 200 lake trout, 200 rainbow trout, and 500 Dolly Varden/Arctic char. The use of a gillnet is prohibited after the harvest quota for any species has been met.
- ◆ For the jig fishery, annual household limits are 30 fish in any combination of lake trout, rainbow trout, or Dolly Varden/Arctic char.
- ◆ You may harvest fish under the ice only in Tustumena Lake. Gillnets are not allowed within ¼ mile radius of the mouth of any tributary to Tustumena Lake or the outlet of Tustumena Lake.
- ◆ Permits will be issued by the Federal fisheries manager or designated representative and will be valid for the 2008/2009 winter season, unless the season is closed by Special Action.
- ◆ All harvests must be reported within 72 hours to the Federal fisheries manager upon leaving the fishing location, in person or by phone. Call (907) 262-9863 or (800) 822-6550 to report your harvest.
- ◆ Harvest information must be recorded on the permit, including the number of each species caught; the number of each species retained; length, depth (number of meshes deep), and mesh size of gillnet fished; location fished; and total hours fished. Harvest data on the permit must be filled out before transporting fish from the fishing area.
- ◆ Gillnets must be checked at least once in every 48-hour period.
- ◆ For unattended gear, the permittee's name and address must be plainly and legibly inscribed on a stake at one end of the gillnet.
- ◆ Incidentally caught fish may be retained and must be recorded on the permit.
- ◆ Failure to return the completed harvest permit by May 31 may result in issuance of a violation notice and/or the denial of a future subsistence permit.
- ◆ Use of aircraft and off-road vehicles is subject to special Kenai National Wildlife Refuge regulations. Regulations provide that the Refuge Manager may open snowmachine access to Tustumena Lake between December 1 and April 30 when there is adequate snow and ice cover. Contact the Refuge at (907) 262-7021 for current regulations.

Location: Tustumena Lake, excluding within ¼ mile of tributaries and the outlet of the Kasilof River

Season: Per permit conditions

Species	Household Limit ¹	Annual Total Harvest Limit
Dolly Varden/Arctic char	30	500
Lake trout	30	200
Rainbow/steelhead trout	30	200
Other species	Incidental harvest allowed	

¹ For the jig fishery, annual household limits are 30 fish in any combination of lake trout, rainbow trout, or Dolly Varden/Arctic char. The use of a gillnet will be prohibited by Special Action after the harvest quota of any species has been met.